(c) if so, whether it, would make coal costlier for small companies; and

(d) if so, how would small companies compete market system with the big companies which have received coal block?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of reply given in part (a) above.

Land sliding due to mining

†2523. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to mining work carried out in the coal areas of Jharkhand, the threat of land sliding has arisen therein;

(b) if so, whether Government have made any scientific study to determine the area affected by this mining work and the details thereof;

(c) the total number of incidents of land sliding during the last four years and the number of people lost their lives in these accidents; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to prevent these accidents and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) Land sliding is defined as a mass of earth / rock that slides down a mountain or a cliff. In coal mines no such phenomena takes place. As such there is no threat of land sliding due to mining carried out in the areas of coal mines in Jharkhand.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of reply given to part (a) above.

Fire in coal mines

†2524. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that some mines of Bharat Coking Coal Limited and Central Coal Field Limited have caught fire for decades;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.